automatically selecting a default corresponding input or output audio transducer according to the user's selection.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the third audio transducer is a telephony device and is turned on by going off hook.

21. The method of claim 14, further comprising setting the configuration in an audio device coupled to the plurality of audio transducers, said audio device being a sound card.

## REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. As required by 37 CFR § 1.121, Applicant submits a version with markings showing changes to the application. In light of the amendments and following remarks, Applicant believes all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

### Formal Matters

The Office Action indicated that a signal line in Fig. 3 was mislabeled. Applicant proposes to amend the signal line as suggested in the Office Action as shown in red ink on the attached drawing sheet. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

With regard to claim 3, the Office Action indicated that there was no antecedent basis for "the another audio transducer." Applicant has amended the claim to have correct antecedent basis. Accordingly, the § 112 rejection is overcome.

### The § 102(a) Rejection of Claims 1-21

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,822,406, issued October 13, 1998 to Brown. Accordingly, it is being asserted that Brown teaches all the features of the claims. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office Action has not shown where Brown discloses switching audio signals from one audio transducer to an off hook audio transducer when the off hook condition is detected. For example, claim 1 includes the following features:

a transducer switch, coupled to the plurality of ports, that receives a configuration for the plurality of audio transducers and that, in response to detecting an off hook condition of at least one of the audio transducers having off hook capability, switches audio signals from one of the audio transducers to the off hook audio transducer for which the off hook condition was detected.

(emphasis supplied). The Office Action states that these features are inherently shown in Fig. 4 of Brown.

A closer inspection of Fig. 4 of Brown and the text in the patent associated with the figure, reveals that this configuration allows a user to record a message through the telephone 201 and SAFE1-1 so that a digital message can be stored on the computer (see, e.g., col. 8, lines 43-58). If Brown detects the LPOHD signal in this instance, it is used to start recording from telephone 201. Thus, it is not utilized to initiate switching audio signals from one audio transducer to the off hook audio transducer as claimed.

The Office Action further stated with regard to Brown, "[T]he purpose of monitoring the LPOHD control signal is to switch the audio signals from other transducers to the local telephone 201, when the local telephone 201 is being picked up" (page 4). Applicant disagrees. Brown describes modes that are designed to utilize telephone 201. For example, the mode described in reference to FIG. 4 is called "Record from the line" because it records a message from the telephone (see Table 1). Thus, the mode itself is designed to record audio from telephone 201. The LPOHD control signal is simply used to indicate that the user has picked up the telephone. The configuration has not changed because the configuration is designed to use telephone 201 as input.

Perhaps an example of the invention claimed would be useful. Assume a user configured the system to use a near field microphone and speakers as shown in Fig. 8A. If the user then takes the handset off hook, the audio signals can be switched from the speakers to the headset speakers. Depending on the implementation, this can apply to any audio transducer that has a detectable off hook capability. The Office Action has not shown that Brown describes a system that can perform these features as they are recited in claim 1.

The Office Action has not shown that Brown teaches all the features of claim 1 so a prima facie case of anticipation has not been established. As the other independent claim has similar features, claims 1-21 are patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned.

Dated: 18 Nov. 2002

Respectfully requested,

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Enclosures: Redlined Fig. 3
Petition for Extension of Time (for 2 months)

## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE APPLICATION

In the Claims

Claims 3 and 14-16 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the switch receives a signal from the controller when the off hook audio transducer goes on hook and switches audio signals back from the on hook audio transducer to the one of the **[another]** audio transducers **[transducer]**.

14. (Amended) A method of managing audio transducers, comprising:
receiving a configuration for a plurality of audio transducers, said configuration specifying that audio signals are to be sent to a first audio transducer and received from a second audio transducer;
detecting that a third audio transducer has been turned on;
changing the configuration such that audio signals are sent to the third audio transducer instead of the first audio transducer **[received from the third audio transducer instead of the second audio transducer]**.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising changing the configuration such that audio signals are received from the third audio transducer instead of the second audio transducer **[sent to the third audio transducer instead of the first audio transducer]**.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
detecting that the third audio transducer has been turned off; and
restoring the configuration such that audio signals are sent to the first audio transducer instead of the third audio transducer **[received from the second audio transducer instead of the third audio transducer]**.

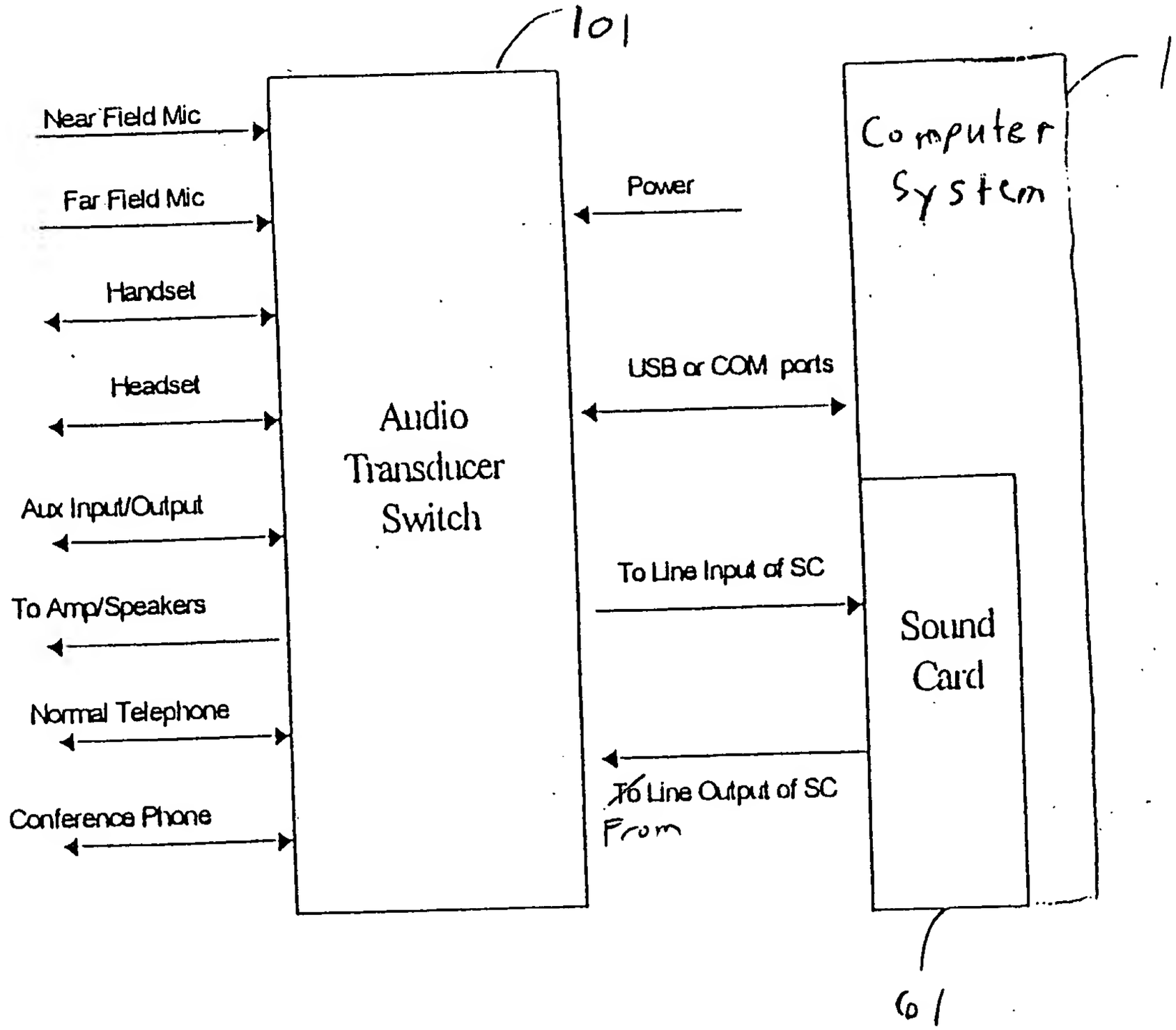


FIG. 3